

SECRET

25X1

- 2 -

25X1

Tran Dang Ninh	Director of the Supply Bureau of the DRV High Command
Ton Duc Thang	President of the Sino-Vietnamese-Soviet Friendship Committee
Nguyen Van Tao	Minister of Labor
Le Van Hien	Minister of Finance
(Unidentified) ³	
(Unidentified) ³	
Tran Dai Nghia aka Pham Quang Le	Chief of the Armament Bureau of the DRV General Staff
(Unidentified) ³	

b. Substitute Members

- (1). Nguyen Khanh Toan, currently Secretary of State in the Ministry of National Education. He holds the real power in this Ministry. Toan is a native of Nghe An Province and is about 40 years old. After obtaining his baccalaureat he became a journalist and private instructor in Saigon. Later he studied in Paris and still later attended the Stalin School in Moscow.
- (2). To Huu, currently Chief of the Education and Propaganda Bureau (Tuyen Huan) of the Lao Dong Party. In this post he controls the DRV radio and press. Huu is about 33 years old and is a well-known poet. He completed his superior primary studies (etudes primaires superieures) at Hue. When the Viet Minh made their bid for power in August 1945, Huu -- together with Nguyen Chi Thanh and Tran Huu Duc -- was a member of the Viet Minh Central Political Committee (Tong-Bo) for Central Vietnam. He was also Secretary-General of the Association for Marxist Studies in Hue. Huu, Nguyen Chi Thanh and Tran Dang Ninh are close friends of Truong Chinh; this group is currently playing the leading role in the Lao Dong Party.
- (3). Nguyen Van Khang, currently Secretary of the Lao Dong Party Zone Committee (Khu Uy) of the Viet Bac.⁴

National Defense Committee

2. The DRV National Defense Committee includes seven members:

Ho Chi Minh	
Truong Chinh	
Vo Nguyen Giap	
Ta Quang Buu	Deputy Minister of National Defense
Chu Van Tan	
Nguyen Luong Bang	
Phan Anh	Minister of Economy

The secretary of the committee is Cu Huy Can.

3. The National Defense Committee is not the supreme directing committee in military matters, but merely an official front charged with studying and executing Lao Dong Party directives. Actually the committee includes non-

SECRET

25X1

SECRET [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

25X1
25X1

- 3 -

Communists including Phan Anh and Ta Quang Buu, who only recently became a Lao Dong Party member and is consequently a very low-ranking member of the committee.

4. The actual power is in the hands of the Lao Dong Party. Surveillance is directed by the Headquarters Bureaus, which are entrusted with widespread powers. Particularly important are the Political Bureau (Chinh Tu Cuc), under Nguyen Chi Thanh, which directs "thought control" in the Army, and the General Supply Bureau, under Tran Dang Ninh, which directs supply, transmission and liaison, and military health.
5. Both Thanh and Ninh are members of the Lao Dong Party Presidium on the same level as Vo Nguyen Giap. Thanh is considered as Giap's eventual successor. He is a young militant, 32 years old, and a former member of the DRV Directing Committee in Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces, where he organized the 101 Dai Doan. Thanh has been highlighted in DRV propaganda since 1951.

25X1 1. [REDACTED] Comment. Bang has been DRV Ambassador to the Soviet Union since April 1952. Although he may still be a member of the Presidium, the failure to mention his new position would appear to date this information.

25X1 2. [REDACTED] Comment. Tan is a former DRV commander along the China-Indochina border. There has been no recent information on Tan.

25X1 3. [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] name three of the lower-ranking members of the Presidium.

25X1 4. [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] nothing about Khang's background.

SECRET [REDACTED]

25X1